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SOURCE Yeni Istanbul.

ALBANIA ANNOUNCES 5-YEAR PLAN:
SOVIET INTEREST DECLINES

Elver Hoxha, Albania's dictator, has previously been satisfied with one- or 2-year plans, but now he has announced that a 5-year plan will be placed in effect. The plan is rather limited in scope because Albania's industrial capabilities are small. The principal aim of the plan is to improve and increase agricultural products. Since the aid extended to the country by the USSR and the Satellites is decreasing daily, Hoxha is trying to take maximum advantage of Albania's meager resources.

Actually, the Soviets are not now as interested in Albania as formerly. At one time there were 5,000 Soviets in the country; now the number of Soviet experts, specialists, technicians, factory employees, and mining engineers does not exceed 1,000. Direct aid has decreased, and exchanges between Albania and Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Poland have declined to a minimum. Now the arrival of a much-repaired tractor is an event. The Soviets' interest is limited to measures taken to prevent Albania's falling into the Titoist camp.

At present, Tito is refraining from interference in Albanian affairs; actually, he has no chance to do so nor has anyone else. The leaders of Free Albania have decided to avoid the dangers of open revolt and to limit themselves to secret resistance activity, and they have sent orders to their supporters to act accordingly. However, in spite of these orders, local incidents occur from time to time and one hears of a governor being executed or of bombs being thrown at a Communist Party building. Anti-communist activity is currently confined to such incidents.

Since Albania is essentially an agricultural country, social efforts there are directed at the peasant masses. Hence, the Albanian peasants are invited to profit from the blessings of Marxist-Lenin theories and to taste the pleasure of official confiscations. A people's assembly in every village assesses taxes and levies; and since nothing approaching justice is used in the calculation of

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taxes, there is a constant game of hide-and-seek between the peasants who attempt to conceal their goods and the government officials who are unable to collect the demanded products. In this game the government is always the loser. Rebellious peasants are placed on a blacklist of politically dangerous people and are quickly and without ado sent to national labor camps where, as punishment, they are put to work in mines or on such projects as swamp drainage.

The unfortunate peasant who is unable to deliver the products levied by the confiscation committees is turned over to the local trade union which sends him straight to one of the above-mentioned labor camps. The implementation of the 5-year plan requires abundant and cheap labor, and these workers can be procured only by the police and militia forces.

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